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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/840,894	04/25/2001	Yasuhiro Kujirai	862.C2210	4470

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EXAMINER

RAHIMI, IRAJ A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/840,894

Applicant(s)

KUJIRAI ET AL.

Examiner

(Iraj) Alan Rahimi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15, 45 and 46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-15, 45 and 46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/30/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. In papers filed on March 25, 2006 applicant amended claims 1-15, canceled claims 16-44 and added new claims 45-46. Amendment to claim 12 overcame the 101 rejection.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 were carefully considered but are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Akihiko does not disclose indication that permission was denied by the authentication server is transmitted. Examiner refers to paragraph 30 of Akihiko which states that printer checks the job number and user information (password and ID card information) against the input information and if there is no problem found, the printer 3 sends an image data acceptance signal to the printer server. Although Akihiko does not specifically states what happens if a problem is encountered, it is inherent that if there is a problem, such as user information is not read correctly or it user information was unacceptable printer would not be able to process the job command and it must some how influence the printing condition. Notification of error condition in a printing system is well known as well as communication of print job status in a printing system. It is the purpose of secured printing systems to allow printing of documents by the authorized user, therefore if a user is not authorized to initiate a secure printing job, an error condition will occur which would inhibit the processing of print job. One ordinary skill in the art would expect to see a communication in the printing system regarding denied access and canceling of the print job.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 3-5, 6, 9, 11-13, 15 and 45-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Motegi Akihiko (Japanese publication number 09-244828).

Regarding claim 1, Akihiko discloses a print control apparatus for performing user authentication processing in print processing, comprising:

a job combination unit for combining a plurality of print jobs into a single combined print job (paragraph 24);

a request unit for issuing a request, including an input user ID, to an authentication server for obtaining permission to print the single combined print job combined by said job combination unit; (paragraph 21), and

a transmission control unit in which a printer driver controls a transmission process so that when permission is obtained from the authentication server, print data based upon the single combined print job is transmitted to a printer, but when permission is not obtained from the authentication server (i) the print data based upon the single combined print job is not transmitted to the printer and (ii) an indication that permission was not obtained from the authentication server is transmitted to a job accounting application. (Paragraph 22-23).

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Regarding claim 3, Akihiko discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the authentication server and the print control apparatus are connected a communication network (paragraph 15-16), and

the communication network is connected to a plurality of printers (paragraph 15).

Regarding claim 4, Akihiko discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the authentication server is provided by a printer (paragraph 21).

Regarding claim 5, Akihiko discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the print control apparatus includes a host computer (host computer 1).

Regarding claims 6, 9, 12 and 13, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 1, are presented.

Regarding claims 8, 11 and 15, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 4, are presented.

Regarding claims 45 and 46, Akihiko discloses the apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the printer driver controls the transmission process so as to generate a print command using the combined print job held in a storage unit and transmits the print command to the printer (paragraphs 24-30).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2, 7, 10 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akihiko (Japanese patent publication 09-244828) in view of Miyamoto Takeshi (Japanese patent publication 07-073128).

Regarding claim 2, Akihiko does not disclose the apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a counting unit for counting a print amount including a number of prints to be printed by the combined print job and transmitting information about the counted print amount to a counting server.

Takeshi discloses this limitation in the abstract.

Akihiko and Takeshi are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor that is network-printing system.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person ordinary skill in the art to count the sheets of the combined print job.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been for the printer to track the inventory of used consumables for reporting to the operator/user for timely replenishment.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Akihiko and Takeshi to obtain the invention as specified in claim 2.

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Regarding claims 7, 10, and 14, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 2, are presented.

Conclusion

7. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to (Iraj) Alan Rahimi whose telephone number is 571-272-7411. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 8:00 - 4:30.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on 571-272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2600.



Alan Rahimi
April 10, 2006



TWYLER/LAMB
PRIMARY EXAMINER
SUPERVISOR